

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A computerized method for updating content in an electronic document, wherein the updating relies on the existence of a persisted policy scheme, the computerized method comprising:

accepting the electronic document;

identifying one or more rights management protections associated with content of the electronic document, said rights management protections being defined by the persisted policy scheme;

pre-licensing the accepted electronic document by obtaining a use license on behalf of a user, said use license being defined by the persisted policy scheme;

determining whether the content of the electronic document has exceeded the rights management protections ~~is subject to~~ defined by the persisted policy scheme; ~~and~~

if the content of the electronic document has exceeded the rights management protections, replacing a portion of the content of the electronic document with an indicating piece of data such that the content of the electronic document is modified; ~~and~~

permitting use of the modified content of the electronic document in accordance with the obtained use license.

Claim 2 (original): The computerized method of claim 1 wherein the electronic document is an electronic mail (e-mail) communication.

Claim 3 (original): The computerized method of claim 1 wherein the determining and replacing are performed on a scheduled interval.

Claim 4 (original): The computerized method of claim 1 wherein the determining and replacing are performed on an ad-hoc basis.

Claim 5 (currently amended): A computer-readable medium containing instructions for performing a method for updating content in an electronic document, wherein the updating relies on the existence of a persisted policy scheme, the method comprising:

accepting the electronic document;

identifying one or more rights management protections associated with content of the electronic document, said rights management protections being defined by the persisted policy scheme;

pre-licensing the accepted electronic document by obtaining a use license on behalf of a user, said use license being defined by the persisted policy scheme;

determining whether the content of the electronic document has exceeded the rights management protections ~~is subject to defined by~~ the persisted policy scheme; and

if the content of the electronic document has exceeded the rights management protections, replacing a portion of the content of the electronic document with an indicating piece of data such that the content of the electronic document is modified; and

permitting use of the modified content of the electronic document in accordance with the obtained use license.

Claim 6 (currently amended): A computerized method for updating content in an electronic document, wherein the updating relies on the existence of a persisted policy scheme, the computerized method comprising:

accepting the electronic document;

identifying one or more rights management protections associated with content of the electronic document, said rights management protections defining an expiration according to the persisted policy scheme;

pre-licensing the accepted electronic document by obtaining a use license on behalf of a user, said use license being defined by the persisted policy scheme;

determining whether the content of the electronic document has exceeded the expiration of the rights management protections ~~is subject to defined by~~ the persisted policy scheme; and

if the content of the electronic document has exceeded the expiration of the rights management protections, deleting the content of the electronic document such that the content of the electronic document is unavailable for use in accordance with the obtained use license.

Claim 7 (original): The computerized method of claim 6 wherein the electronic document is an electronic mail (e-mail) communication.

Claim 8 (original): The computerized method of claim 6 wherein the determining and replacing are performed on a scheduled interval.

Claim 9 (original): The computerized method of claim 6 wherein the determining and replacing are performed on an ad-hoc basis.

Claim 10 (currently amended): A computer-readable medium containing instructions for performing a method for updating content in an electronic document, wherein the updating relies on the existence of a persisted policy scheme, the method comprising:

accepting the electronic document;

identifying one or more rights management protections associated with content of the electronic document, said rights management protections defining an expiration according to the persisted policy scheme;

pre-licensing the accepted electronic document by obtaining a use license on behalf of a user, said use license being defined by the persisted policy scheme;

determining whether the content of the electronic document has exceeded the expiration of the rights management protections ~~is subject to~~ defined by the persisted policy scheme; and

if the content of the electronic document has exceeded the expiration of the rights management protections, deleting the content of the electronic document such that the content of the electronic document is unavailable for use in accordance with the obtained use license.

Claim 11 (currently amended): A computerized method for updating content in an electronic document, wherein the updating relies on the existence of a persisted policy scheme, the computerized method comprising:

accepting the electronic document;

identifying one or more rights management protections associated with content of the electronic document, said rights management protections defining an expiration according to the persisted policy scheme;

pre-licensing the accepted electronic document by obtaining a use license on behalf of a user, said use license being defined by the persisted policy scheme, said use license granting access to the content of the electronic document by the user;

determining whether the content of the electronic document has exceeded an expiration of the rights management protections ~~is subject to~~ defined by the persisted policy scheme; and

if the content of the electronic document has exceeded the expiration of the rights management protections, replacing a portion of the content of the electronic document with a refreshed copy of the portion of the content of the electronic document such that the electronic document maintains the rights management protections even though the user is pre-licensed to access the original content of the electronic document in accordance with the obtained use license.

Claim 12 (original): The computerized method of claim 11 wherein the electronic document is an electronic mail (e-mail) communication.

Claim 13 (original): The computerized method of claim 11 wherein the determining and replacing are performed on a scheduled interval.

Claim 14 (original): The computerized method of claim 11 wherein the determining and replacing are performed on an ad-hoc basis.

Claim 15 (currently amended): A computer-readable medium containing instructions for performing a method for updating content in an electronic document, wherein the updating relies on the existence of a persisted policy scheme, the method comprising:

accepting the electronic document;

identifying one or more rights management protections associated ~~therewith~~ content of the accepted electronic document, said rights management protections defining an expiration according to the persisted policy scheme;

pre-licensing the accepted electronic document by obtaining a use license on behalf of a user, said use license being defined by the persisted policy scheme, said use license granting access to the content of the electronic document by the user;

determining whether the content of the electronic document has exceeded the expiration of the rights management protections is subject to the persisted policy scheme; and

if the content of the electronic document has exceeded the expiration of the rights management protections, updating a portion of the content of the electronic document with a refreshed copy of the portion of the content of the electronic document such that the electronic document maintains the rights management protections even though the user is pre-licensed to access the original content of the electronic document in accordance with the obtained use license.

Claim 16 (currently amended): A computerized method for specifying an updating process for content in an electronic document, wherein the updating relies on the existence of a persisted policy scheme, said electronic document having one or more rights management protections associated therewith content thereof, said rights management protections being defined by the persisted policy scheme, the computerized method comprising:

configuring the updating process to identify content in the electronic document that has the one or more rights management protections associated therewith, to pre-license the accepted message on behalf of a user, and to replace a portion of the content of the electronic document with an indicating piece of data such that the content of the electronic document is modified if the electronic document has exceeded the rights management protections thereby permitting use of the modified content of the electronic document by the pre-licensed user.

Claim 17 (original): The computerized method of claim 16 further comprising defining an interval for the updating process to be performed.

Claim 18 (original): The computerized method of claim 16 further comprising defining the updating process to be performed on an ad-hoc basis.

Claim 19 (currently amended): A computer-readable medium containing instructions for performing a method for specifying an updating process for content in an electronic document, wherein the updating relies on the existence of a persisted policy scheme, said electronic document having one or more rights management protections associated therewith content thereof, said rights management protections being defined by the persisted policy scheme, the method comprising:

configuring the updating process to identify content in the electronic document that has the one or more rights management protections associated therewith, to pre-license the accepted message content of the electronic document on behalf of a user, and to replace a portion of the content of the electronic document with an indicating piece of data such that the content of the electronic document is modified if the electronic document has exceeded rights management protections thereby permitting use of the modified content of the electronic document by the pre-licensed user.

Claim 20 (currently amended): A computerized method for specifying an updating process for content in an electronic document, wherein the updating relies on the existence of a persisted policy scheme, said electronic document having one or more rights management protections associated therewith content thereof, said rights management protections defining an expiration according to the persisted policy scheme, the computerized method comprising:

configuring the updating process to identify content in the electronic document that has the one or more rights management protections associated therewith, to pre-license the accepted message content of the electronic document on behalf of a user, and to delete the content of the electronic document such that the content of the electronic document is unavailable if the electronic document has exceeded the expiration of the rights management protections even though the user is pre-licensed to use the original content of the electronic document.

Claim 21 (original): The computerized method of claim 20 further comprising defining an interval for the updating process to be performed.

Claim 22 (original): The computerized method of claim 20 further comprising defining the updating process to be performed on an ad-hoc basis.

Claim 23 (currently amended): A computer-readable medium containing instructions for performing a method for specifying an updating process for content in an electronic document, wherein the updating relies on the existence of a persisted policy scheme, said electronic document having one or more rights management protections associated therewith content thereof, said rights management protections defining an expiration according to the persisted policy scheme, the method comprising:

configuring the updating process to identify content in the electronic document that has the one or more rights management protections associated therewith, to pre-license the ~~accepted message~~ content of the electronic document on behalf of a user, and to delete the content of the electronic document data such that the content of the electronic document is unavailable if the electronic document has exceeded the expiration of the rights management protections even though the user is pre-licensed to use the original content of the electronic document.

Claim 24 (currently amended): A computerized method for specifying an updating process for content in an electronic document, wherein the updating relies on the existence of a persisted policy scheme, said electronic document having one or more rights management protections associated therewith content thereof, said rights management protections defining an expiration according to the persisted policy scheme, the computerized method comprising:

configuring the updating process to identify content in the electronic document that has the one or more rights management protections, to pre-license the ~~accepted message~~ content of the electronic document on behalf of a user to access the content of the electronic document, and to replace a portion of the content of the electronic document with a refreshed copy of the portion of the content of the electronic document such that the electronic document maintains the rights management protections if the electronic document has exceeded the expiration of the rights management protections even though the user is pre-licensed to access the original content of the electronic document in accordance with the obtained use license.

Claim 25 (original): The computerized method of claim 24 further comprising defining an interval for the updating process to be performed.

Claim 26 (original): The computerized method of claim 24 further comprising defining the updating process to be performed on an ad-hoc basis.

Claim 27 (currently amended): A computer-readable medium containing instructions for performing a method for specifying an updating process for content in an electronic document, wherein the updating relies on the existence of a persisted policy scheme, said electronic document having one or more rights management protections associated therewith content thereof, said rights management protections defining an expiration according to the persisted policy scheme, the method comprising:

configuring the updating process to identify content in the electronic document that has the one or more rights management protections associated therewith, to pre-license the accepted message content of the electronic document on behalf of a user to access the content of the electronic document, and to replace a portion of the content of the electronic document with a refreshed copy of the portion of the content of the electronic document such that the electronic document maintains the rights management protections if the electronic document has exceeded the expiration of the rights management protections even though the user is pre-licensed to access the original content of the electronic document in accordance with the obtained use license.